(b) and (c) Since the direction to destroy the import consignment of raisins has been given by Madras High Court to the Customs authorities, no formal enquiry has been made.

Visit of Indian delegation to Bangladesh

686. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high level Indian delegation headed by the Minister of Commerce visited Bangladesh in December, 1993;

(b) if so, the details of discussion on bilateral trade between the two countries during the visit and the outcome thereof ;

(c) whether Government have offered an Indian expertise for Joint Ventures in that country; and

(d) if so, the areas identified for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Commerce Minister led the Indian delegation to the 4th Meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission held in Dhaka which included discussions on bilateral trade and measures to enhance trade flows in both directions.

(c) and (d) The areas identified for establishment of potential Joint Ventures in Bangladesh were sponge iron, automobile industry, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, pesticides, cement, small industrial projects, total quality management, environment and energy management etc.

Business Promotion Tour to South Africa

687. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the former President of the Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) went on a promotion tour to South Africa alongwith a delegation to sign a joint venture agreement on export of new products and transfer of technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the benefit to exports by such a joint venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Shri Ramu S. Deora, the Former President of FIEO led a 103 Member business delegation to South Africa from 23.1.94 to 1-2-94 to establish contacts with South African businessmen, to promote bilateral trade, third country exports and transfer of technology between the two countries. No Joint venture agreement was signed with any South African entrepreneur.

(c) According to the estimate of FIEO, the two way trade worth over US $ 32 mn was negotiated during the visit and is expected to subsequently increase significantly.

Correspondence of MPs with Ministry

688. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters written by the Members of Parliament to Commerce Ministry during the period from 1.4.90 to 31.3.93 alongwith year-wise details thereof;

(b) the number of letters out of them that were acknowledged;